(a) the policy for one-time payment of road tax for different categories of vehicles;

(b) whether there are State-wise variation; if so, the details thereof and under what provisions of law;

(c) the status of a vehicle for payment of road tax, if one-time is paid in a State, say in Maharashtra or Gujarat, and then the vehicle shifts to another State, say to West bengal or Bihar; and

(d) whether the road tax is to be paid again; if so, under what provision, and action Government proposes to bring uniformity?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Fund for Upgradation of State Highways

124. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned fund for the upgradation of some State Highways during 1997-98;

(b) whether World Bank has also provided fund for the same purpose; and

(c) if so, the State-wise details of the Highways accorded fund sanctioned from the Central Government as well as World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Details of State Highways/Express Highways Funded by Central Government

125. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the State Highways/ Express Highways and State Roads of economic importance of different States funded by the Government during 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) the Highways and State Roads identified in Orissa and other States for Central funding for repairing and upgradation during 9th Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of E&I sixteen (16) projects involving central share of appx. Rs. 50 crores have been finally sanctioned during the 8th plan.

(b) 9th Plan is yet to be finalised.

(c) Does not arise.

Research and Technology in the field of Geo-Synthetics

126. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the geo-synthetics, the new construction material is being successfully used for various civil engineering works including construction of roads in U.S. and other countries;

(b) whether India has started its research and technology in the field of geo-synthetics;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for setting up of geo-synthetic manufacturing industries in India, especially in hill areas and natural disaster prone areas?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) yes, Sir. Considerable research has been carried out by various Institutions in India. GEO-synthetics has been used in construction of reinforced